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FBIS-1119/87

13 MAY 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Information Resources

FROM:

[REDACTED]

25X1

Acting Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

SUBJECT:

Termination of Foreign Videotape Service by OIR to Non-CIA Customers

REFERENCE:

Your Memo, dtd 4 May 87, Same Subject

1. FBIS understands but regrets the decision of OIR to have its Visual Media Branch cease regular distribution of FBIS foreign video to non-CIA requesters. While we anticipate that growing demands for foreign video will continue to require new approaches to allocating limited manpower and resources, your memo was the first indication we had received that VMB has found it necessary to withdraw from providing this service. Your planned termination date of 1 August would coincide with the inevitable disruptions that will accompany our move to new headquarters in Reston. It would also provide FBIS less than three months to absorb with our own limited staffing and funding resources the substantial requirements of assuming this service and establishing working arrangements with P&PD. Therefore, we propose that the transfer of responsibility for this service not take place until after the start of the new fiscal year.

2. [REDACTED] chief of the FBIS Monitoring Operations Division, has already contacted [REDACTED] to discuss your memo. She has offered to provide detailed data on VMB's distribution of FBIS videotapes to enable us to estimate the added workload that FBIS would assume.

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[REDACTED]

25X1

cc: DDS&T

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SUBJECT: Termination of Foreign Videotape Service by OIR to Non-CIA
Customers

FBIS/MOD/ [] (7MAY87)

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Distribution:

Orig - Addressee

- 1 - AD/FBIS Chrono
- 1 - PGC Corres file
- 2 - DDS&T
- 1 - AC/OPS
- 1 - MOD File
- 1 - FBIS Registry
- 1 - Distribution Copy

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1729X-87

4 MAY 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Foreign Broadcast Information Service

FROM:

Director of Information Resources

25X1

SUBJECT: Termination of Foreign Videotape Service by OIR to Non-CIA Customers

1. Visual Media Branch (VMB) of OIR has traditionally served as the distribution unit for FBIS video. As the popularity of foreign video has grown, fulfilling this role has taken an increased amount of VMB time. In view of the growing demands on VMB and the limited resources in the branch, we have had to eliminate some functions as more important services for Agency customers are identified. Accordingly, we find it necessary to cease in the coming months distribution of FBIS videotapes to non-CIA customers. VMB does not provide domestic video or photographic services--the tangible results of our collection efforts--to them, and our plan is to treat non-CIA customers similarly with regard to foreign video.
2. VMB personnel currently spend many hours each month processing and distributing hundreds of FBIS videotapes to non-CIA customers, whose numbers are increasing. Almost all of them are military units. We have been receiving and processing requests generated by FBIS Video Selection Lists, arranging for OL/P&PD replications of FBIS videotapes, inspecting tapes for quality, packaging tapes for shipment, and maintaining circulation records. Simultaneously, CIA customers and policymakers have placed new demands on VMB. Although the increased popularity of foreign video is indicative of its value, we do not have the staff to continue servicing the many non-Agency customers.
3. VMB will continue, of course, to have as a priority requirement the distribution of foreign video--over the cable grid system and on videotape--to all CIA units and to policymakers upon request. We plan to phase out our routine activities on behalf of non-CIA customers by about 1 August 1987. We are ready to assist you as much as possible in establishing the foreign videotape distribution responsibility elsewhere.

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SUBJECT: Termination of Foreign Videotape Service by OIR to Non-CIA Customers

4. Please name someone from your office to meet with VMB to discuss our plan to terminate routine foreign videotape service to non-Agency customers. The OIR contact for discussions is Chief of VMB. She can be reached on extension

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